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ABSTRACT

The Center for Instructional Computing (CIC) at Eastern Michigan University is described in this report. The center serves as a model for making the infusion of innovative uses of microcomputers within instruction a faculty-centered effort. CIC provides a physical facility with IBM and Apple microcomputers dedicated to faculty use, both as a laboratory and as a home for ongoing assistance and program offerings. The single most unique feature of the CIC is its dual organizational configuration (the facility and certain support aspects are administered by the dean, and the program of services is in the faculty domain). Specific programs and services currently available include: peer workshops; peer training; a newsletter; open periods of time for use of hardware and software with professional assistance; a collection of resource materials on all aspects of computing available 40 hours per week; and a faculty summer grant award program for instructional computing projects. In its fourth year of operation, CIC is a vital component of faculty development within the university. Faculty are more comfortable and active in their use of microcomputers in instruction today than they were in 1984. Four appendices are: a graph of CIC total lab visits; a graph of cumulative hours by major topics; a graph showing perceived workshop influence on teaching; and a CIC newsletter. (Author/SM)

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Project Title: **CENTER FOR INSTRUCTIONAL COMPUTING**

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Date: March 1, 1989

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AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory is a two-year project seeking to establish and test a model system for collecting and disseminating information on model programs at AASCU-member institutions--375 of the public four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

The four objectives of the project are:

- To increase the information on model programs available to all institutions through the ERIC system
- To encourage the use of the ERIC system by AASCU institutions
- To improve AASCU's ability to know about, and share information on, activities at member institutions, and
- To test a model for collaboration with ERIC that other national organizations might adopt.

The AASCU/ERIC Model Programs Inventory Project is funded with a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, in collaboration with the ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education at The George Washington University.

ABSTRACT

The Center for Instructional Computing at Eastern Michigan University serves as a model effort in making the infusion of innovative uses of microcomputers within instruction a truly faculty-centered effort. The Center provides a physical facility with both IBM and Apple PC's dedicated to faculty use, both as a laboratory and as a home for ongoing assistance and program offerings. Specific programs include: peer workshops, peer training, a newsletter, "sharing successes" discussions, presentations by outside specialists, competitive faculty research grants, and a network of departmental liaisons for software development and evaluation.

Introduction:

The Center for Instructional Computing (CIC) at Eastern Michigan University is completing its fourth full year of successful operation. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive program of computer-related activities for the enhancement of instructional and professional effectiveness of the faculty.

The CIC was nominated for the 1986 G. Theodore Mitau Award for Innovation and Change in Higher Education in the area of faculty and administrative development as a uniquely innovative faculty development program that has been established and supported by the University without any outside grant funding. This report covers the establishment of the CIC, a brief history, and a description of its current use and impact.

Background:

The concept of the CIC was first developed by Provost Ronald W. Collins in 1983. Dr. Collins saw a desperate need for providing faculty with opportunities to become familiar with, and competent in the use of the microcomputers in their teaching and professional activities. In 1984, he retained the services of Dr. James D. Spain, author of the text, **BASIC MICROCOMPUTER MODELS IN BIOLOGY**, to serve as the Center's first Director. Dr. Spain had served for twenty-two years as Professor of Biological Sciences at Michigan Technical University and also as Director of the SUMIT Courseware Development Project. The initial year of operation saw the program focus on workshops offered on topics ranging from introductory "computer literacy" to advanced methods of developing instructional software, as well as actual software development for Apple microcomputers. Much of Dr. Spain's time was spent on needs assessment activities and paving the way for the internalization of the Center and its programs within the Academic Affairs Division.

In 1985, Robert Ferrett, Lecturer in Eastern's Department of Interdisciplinary Technology, was appointed as the new Director of the CIC and has continued in that capacity. At the same time, the direct administrative reporting relationship was changed from the Provost's Office to the Office of Dr. Morell D. Boone, Dean of Learning Resources and Technologies. A facility was remodeled for a permanent CIC laboratory and resource center within the University Library building. The facility was originally equipped with five IBM PC's and five Apple II-e's as faculty loaners and a computer-video projection system. In addition to the equipment, the Center contained many different types of commercial and locally developed software for IBM and Apple PC's, and hundreds of computer-related texts and journals.

Description:

The single most unique feature of the CIC is its dual organizational configuration. That is, the facility and certain support aspects of the CIC are administered by the Dean, and the program of services is in the faculty domain. The Director is a faculty position on full assignment to staff the program of services that are developed in consultation with a ten-member faculty committee. The new Associate Director, Dr. Stuart Karabenick, is a Professor in the Psychology Department on 75% release time to work with clients of the CIC and also develop computing conferencing within the instructional mission of the

University. These relationships allow for an internalization of the Center with the administrative structure without the cloud of administrative dominance over a program which depends on a voluntary relationship with the faculty.

The CIC Lab and Resource Center has developed into a facility with ten machines, evenly divided between MS-DOS and MacIntosh, for in-lab use, and six machines, evenly divided between MS-DOS and MacIntosh, on carts with projection panels for use in departments and classrooms. Also, a brand new addition to the CIC is a MAC II with all the interactive peripherals and software available today. This "creation station" will be used as the center of a new emphasis on course materials design.

The specific programs and services currently being offered by the CIC are:

1. Workshops on introduction to computing for novices and beginners, work processing, spreadsheets, database managers, CAI and authoring systems. All of the workshops are offered many times and are restricted to five participants for each session, due to the hands-on nature of the workshop.
2. Open periods of time for use of hardware and software, with professional assistance available as requested.
3. Collection of resource materials on all aspects of computing available 40 hours per week. These materials include trade journals, magazines, computer books and texts, software brochures and demonstrations disks.
4. Two newsletters distributed to over 800 members of the University community. The regular features of the CIC monthly newsletter include a schedule of events, evaluations of software and a reading list. IMPACT is a bi-monthly publication that contains articles and information about instructional computing.
5. Tipsheets are offered on a variety of specific application and programming topics. These sheets cover areas of interest/concern that are not well documented in software manuals.
6. Faculty forums for discussions of important issues facing the effective use of microcomputers within the curriculum and instruction.
7. Programs featuring specialists in software development and nationally known figures in the field of instructional computing.
8. Faculty summer grant award program (ten grants at $1,200 each) for instructional computing projects.
9. Assistance in the preparation of grant proposals in seeking private and governmental support for faculty computer-related projects.
10. Assistance in using mainframe computer conferencing.
11. A network of departmental liaisons who assist their colleagues in dealing more effectively with computer-related issues.
12. Assistance to individual faculty members in developing their own educational software, using authoring systems software supplied by the Center.

Results:

The CIC, in its fourth full year of operation, has become a vital, grassroots component of faculty development within the University. This claim is substantiated by the fact that the CIC's use by faculty during the first semester of operation was 819 hours, and during the first half of the current semester the usage is already over 1,220 hours.

In order to show the impact of the CIC program and a view of its current offerings, a set of four exhibits has been included. Exhibit I is a graphic depiction of the total lab visits from 1986 until Spring 1988. Exhibit II depicts the cumulative hours spent by faculty on the six major topic areas.

Exhibit III is a compilation of three figures that show the results of a recent survey of client satisfaction. Figure 1 relates perceived workshop influence in teaching, Figure 2 shows perceived workshop influence on research, and Figure 3 shows attitudes toward computers and the workshops.

Exhibit IV is a copy of the current CIC Workshop Newsletter. It has information on current offerings, including the March/April workshop schedule.

Conclusion:

It is a fact that the faculty at Eastern Michigan University are more comfortable and more active in their use of microcomputers in instruction today than they were in 1984. The CIC and its program of services certainly have played a major role in the positive development of faculty embracing new learning technologies. For an initial investment of under $50,000 and a continuing internally-funded annual budget allocation of $70,000, students at EMU are benefiting from a faculty that is rapidly moving into the age of appropriate technology adoption.

Eastern Michigan University has provided a development program for its faculty, with services determined by the faculty. The University is committed to continue and improve the CIC in 1989 and beyond. This type of internal investment in motivating faculty to embrace the computer as an effective tool in instructional and professional activities should serve as a model to other institutions in making the effort to infuse innovative uses of microcomputers within their academic mission without having to rely on sporadic funding from outside agencies.

CIC Total Lab Visits

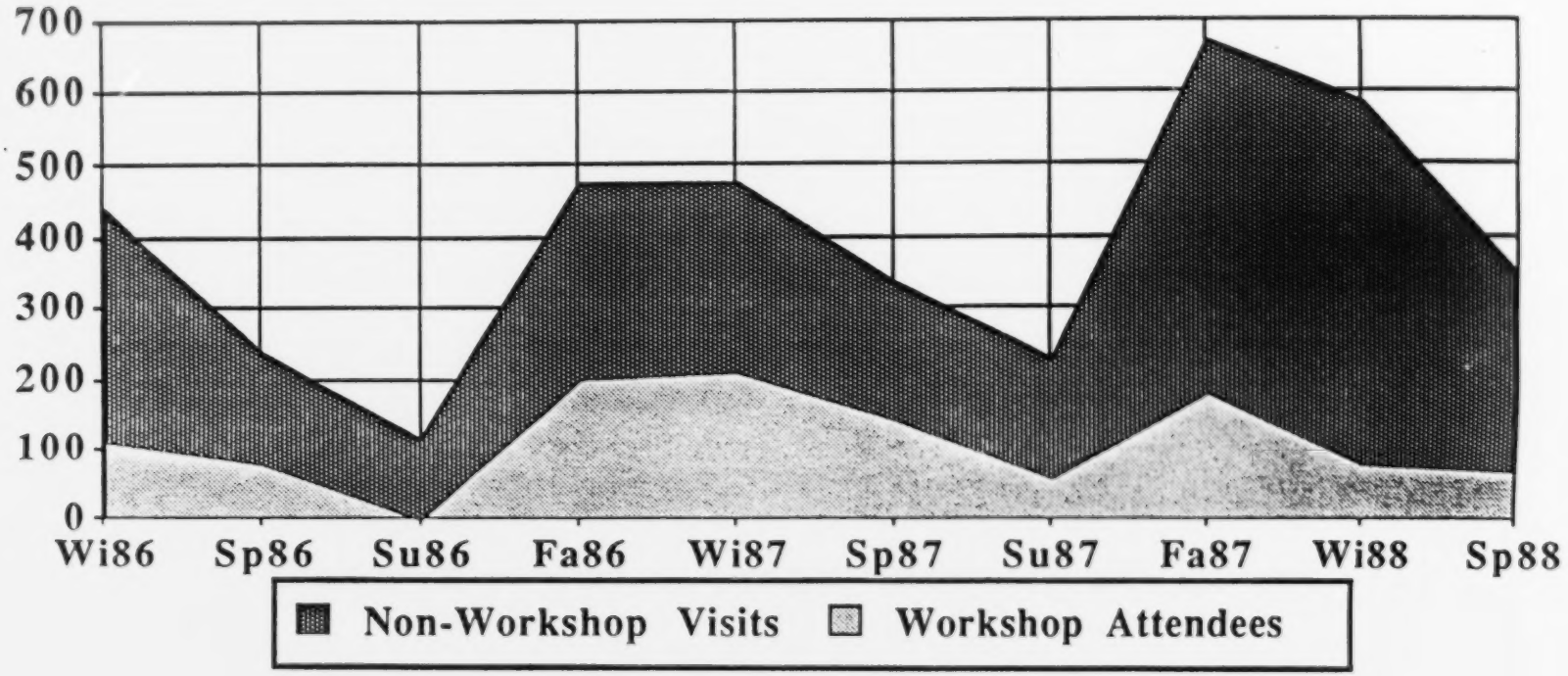

Exhibit I

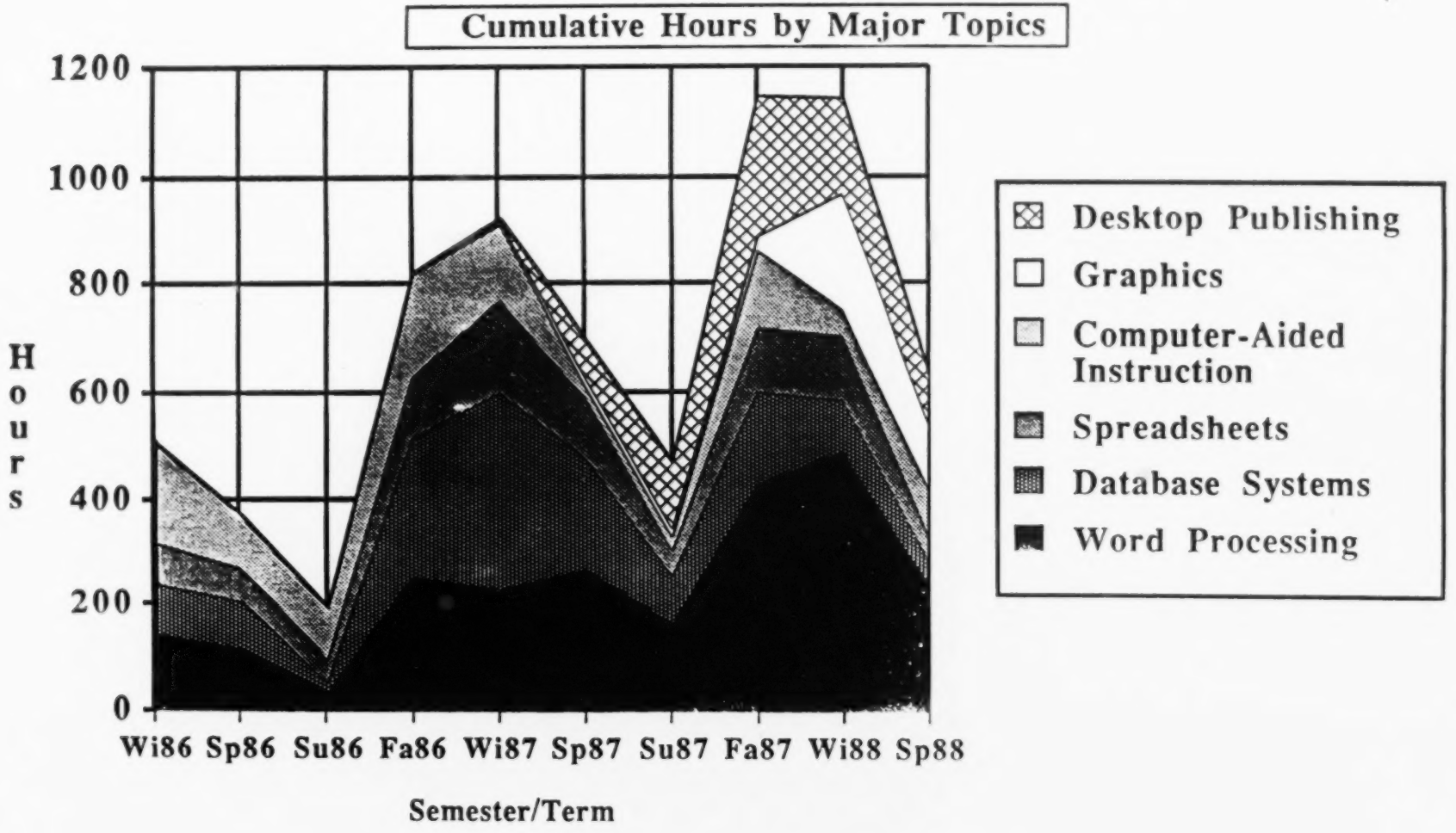
Cumulative Hours by Major Topics
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Hours
Wi86 Sp86 Su86 Fa86 Wi87 Sp87 Su87 Fa87 Wi88 Sp88
Semester/Term
Desktop Publishing
Graphics
Computer-Aided Instruction
Spreadsheets
Database Systems
Word Processing

Exhibit II

Figure 1. Perceived Workshop Influence on Teaching

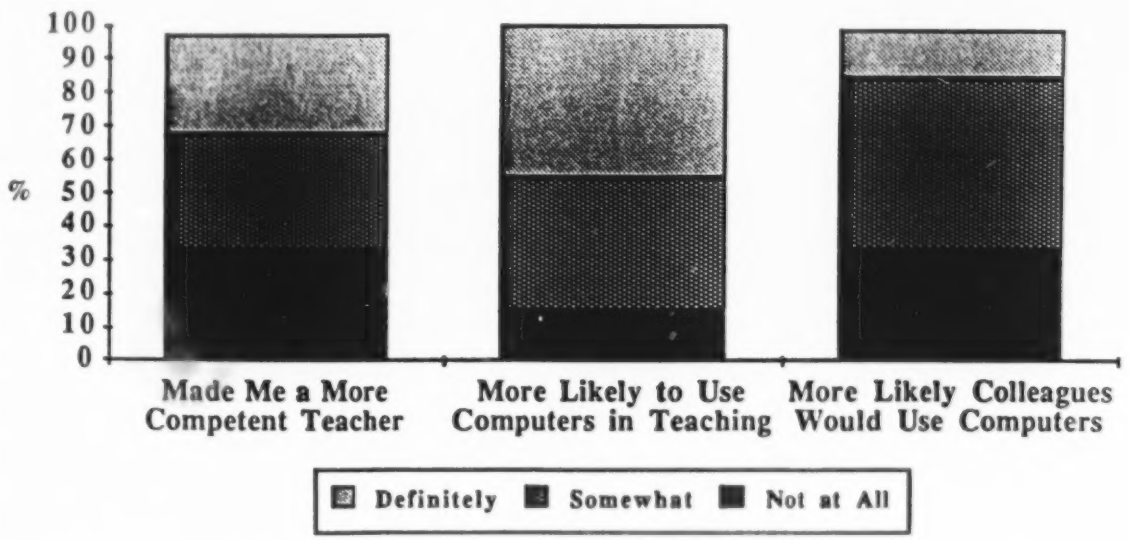

Figure 2. Perceived Workshop Influence on Research

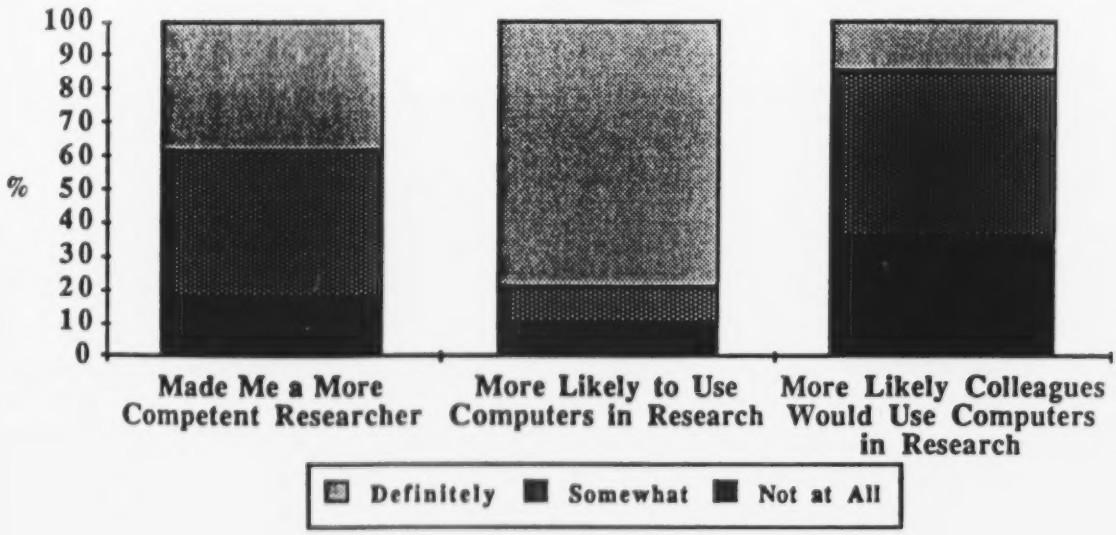

Figure 3. Additional Reactions to Workshops

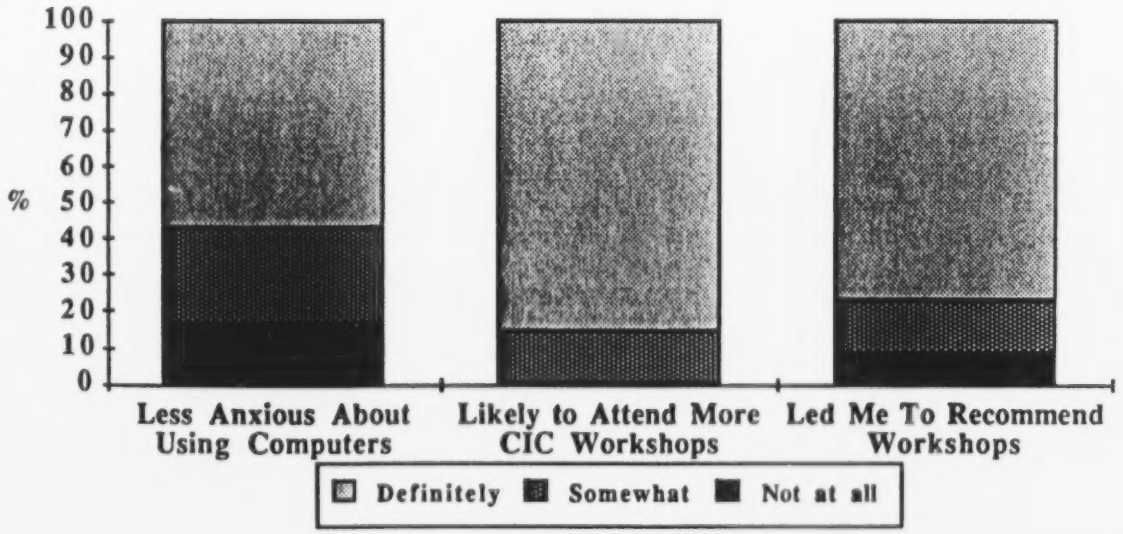

Exhibit IV

CIC Center for Instructional Computing

Academic Affairs Division
215 University Library **Eastern Michigan University** Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Robert L. Ferrett, Director
(313) 487-1347

Morell D. Boone, Dean
Learning Resources and Technologies

CIC NEWS

March/April, 1989

The March and April schedule for 1989 is probably the most exciting in the history of the Center. In addition to thirty workshops, the CIC will be sponsoring an Instructional Software Showcase, an Apple Macintosh demonstration, and a new file transfer workshop. The two most popular Computer-Aided Instruction 3-week workshops will also be repeated.

Instructional Software Showcase

The first annual Instructional Software Showcase will be held on April 6, from 9 am to 4 pm in several rooms in the library. There will be demonstrations of CAI, tutorials and other instructional software used at EMU, along with demonstrations of the use of graphics, projection devices, etc.

As an integral part of this event, several hardware vendors, such as Apple, Zenith, and NeXT, will be demonstrating the use of their hardware in the instructional process.

More information will be forthcoming.

Summer Grant Applications Due

The summer grant applications are due right after the Winter Break. If you are preparing one at this time, please be sure to get it in by Wednesday, March 15.

If you are interested in applying for a grant, but haven't yet requested an application form, please call Bob or Stu at 7-1347.

Apple Demonstration

Apple computer will be presenting a demonstration on Thursday, March 16, from 2-4 pm in the CIC lab. There will be a demonstration of the new Macintosh SE/30, and a connectivity display, including:

- MS-DOS/Macintosh file transfer
- Macintosh/mainframe connections
- Networking Macs & IBMs
- Related topics

Advanced Excel Workshop

An advanced Excel workshop, covering macros and the use of Excel as a database, will be offered on April 13, from 3-4:30 pm.

File Transfer Workshop

There will be a new workshop on file transfers offered on Wednesday, April 19. This session will cover changing files from one format to another, and transferring files between Macintosh and IBM compatibles.

This will be a hands-on workshop. If you have some files to work on, bring them along!

Italics - IBM workshops
Bold - Macintosh workshops
* Caucus is held in Goddard Lab
** Intro to Micros - Both IBM & Mac

		1	2	3 *Enable WP* *1-3*
	6	7	8	9	10
	← WINTER BREAK →				
MARCH	13	14 **MacDraw** **2-4**	15 **Hypercard** **1-4**	16 *Word Perfect* *5.0 9-12* **Mac SE/30 demo & Connectivity 2-4**	17 **StatView+** **1-3**
	20 **Intro to Mac** **10-12** Caucus * 1-3	21 **Pagemaker** **1-4**	22 **Hypercard** **1-4**	23 *dBASE III+* *1-4*	24 *GOOD FRIDAY*
	27 **MacWrite** **1-3**	28 *MS Word intro* *9-12*	29 **Hypercard** **1-4**	30 **Excel Intro** **1-4**	31 *Enable WP* *1-3*
	3 *Microcomputer Intro ** 10-12* *Reflex* *2-4*	4 *DOS Intro* *9-11*	5	6 *Instructional Software Showcase* *9 am - 5 pm*	7 *Enable WP 1-3* **CAI (Course of Action) 1-4**
APRIL	10 **Graphics Int** **2-4**	11 *Lotus 123 Intro* *9-12* *WordStar 4.0* *1-4*	12 **MacWrite** **10-12** **Pagemaker** **1-4**	13 **Adv. Excel** **3-4:30**	14 **CAI (Course of Action) 1-4**
	17 **Intro to Mac** **2-4**	18 **MacDraw** **10-12**	19 File Transfer Demo** 3-4	20	21 **CAI (Course of Action) 1-4**